

GHOST IN THE SHELL  
MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE

# 攻殻機動隊

ISSUE 9 OF 11

STORY AND ART BY  
**MASAMUNE SHIROW**

TRANSLATION BY  
**FREDERIK L. SCHODT AND TOREN SMITH**

この物語に登場する  
様々な設定や解説や概  
念は全て妄想の産物で  
あり、現実とは無関係  
の娯楽物です。服用を  
誤る事無くお楽しみ頂  
ければ幸いです。  
またデッチ上げやギミ  
ックの「誤用」による  
二次被害には当方責任  
を負いかねます点を御  
了承願います。

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OPEN

MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE CONTROL PREFERENCES



# WARNING: READ ME FIRST!

Readers may note that certain panels seem to have been inadvertently left unreversed or have incongruous backwards lettering. These were artistic decisions made by Mr. Shirow during the production of the mirror-imaged foreign edition of *Man-Machine Interface*. — Dark Horse Comics and Studio Proteus

The various situations, explanations, and concepts that appear in this book are a product of my wild imagination, a form of entertainment with no connection to reality. Take according to directions, and enjoy. Be advised that the author assumes no responsibility for any collateral damage resulting from improper use of the various constructs, fabrications, and gimmicks in the story.

## APOLOGIES AND CORRECTIONS

In the *Ghost in the Shell* graphic novel published in 1991, the heroine, Motoko Kusanagi, fused with a self-described "intelligent life-form" and left Section 9 of the Public Security Bureau. This story takes place approximately four years and five months later. As a result, this story is quite different from what was originally called *Ghost in the Shell* and featured Public Security's Section 9 (the Special Assault Force). I thought of visually differentiating the new Japanese title from the old one by merely changing the last kanji character, from one that means "military unit" to the homophonic kanji for "body" or "form" (which would shift the meaning of "mobile force" or "riot squad" to something like "mobile-unit-body-entity"), but for a variety of reasons I decided not to do so. To those readers expecting a direct continuation of the prior storyline, I apologize and beg for your understanding. I'm sorry, folks!

— Masamune Shirow

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Milwaukie OR 97222 USA

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DIVE ACTIVE  
NEW TYPE H-1000

!

VIRUS MASTER VERSION 7.4.2 ACTIVE : NO VIRUS

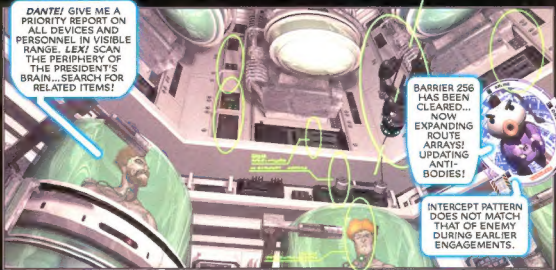
NOW CORRECTING  
SENSORY  
DEVICES...THEY'RE  
IN TYPE "H" GEL.  
IDENTIFYING WITH  
OLFACTORY AND  
TASTE SENSES!



MAX...? GIVE  
PRIORITY TO  
IMAGE  
ANALYSIS.

AYE-  
AYE, SAH!





DANTE! GIVE ME A PRIORITY REPORT ON ALL DEVICES AND PERSONNEL IN VISIBLE RANGE. LEX! SCAN THE PERIPHERY OF THE PRESIDENT'S BRAIN...SEARCH FOR RELATED ITEMS!

BARRIER 256 HAS BEEN CLEARED... NOW EXPANDING ROUTE ARRAYS! UPDATING ANTI-BODIES!

INTERCEPT PATTERN DOES NOT MATCH THAT OF ENEMY DURING EARLIER ENGAGEMENTS.



SEEMS LIKE A FAIRLY LARGE-SCALE GROUP-BODY DEPOSIT FACILITY. DESIGN ENGINEERING ASSUMES MICROGRAVITY...

NOW ANALYZING ROUTES! REGARDING THE PRESIDENT'S PHYSICAL LOCATION...THERE'S A 90% POSSIBILITY THAT HE'S AT THE SAME COORDINATES AS THE ENEMY DECATONCALE.



AND THE OTHER 10%...?

THERE IS ONE FACILITY NOW ORBITING THE MOON FOR WHICH THERE IS A CLEAR OPTICAL COM PATH, BUT IT'LL BE ENTERING LOS IN LESS THAN SIXTY SECONDS.

SO...THE PRESIDENT'S PHYSICAL FORM IS IN AN ENEMY FACILITY. HMM...WONDER IF THE ENEMY SWITCHED PLACES WITH HIM SOMEWHERE?

OKAY...I'M GOING TO INFILTRATE THE ENEMY DECATONCALE THROUGH THE PRESIDENT'S BRAIN! I'LL APPROACH LEVEL 5 CAUTIOUSLY...

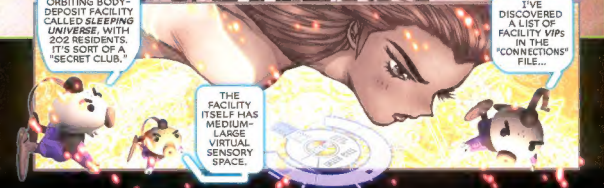
TRACK IT UNTIL LOSS OF SIGNAL.



THIS IS AN ORBITING BODY-DEPOSIT FACILITY CALLED SLEEPING UNIVERSE, WITH 202 RESIDENTS. IT'S SORT OF A "SECRET CLUB."

I'VE DISCOVERED A LIST OF FACILITY VIPS IN THE "CONNECTIONS" FILE...

THE FACILITY ITSELF HAS MEDIUM-LARGE VIRTUAL SENSORY SPACE.







DETAILS...?

THEY'RE CHARTER MEMBERS, WITH FOUR TIMES THE NUMBER OF CONNECTING DEVICES AS OTHERS, THREE TIMES THE AMOUNT OF BACKUP POWER, AND CLOSEST PROXIMITY TO THE TWO ESCAPE PODS.

THERE ARE ALSO TWELVE MAINTENANCE CEBOTS ON SITE.

LOOKS SORT OF LIKE THE *STABAT MATER* AND *MILLENNIUM* SET-UP, DOESN'T IT...?

LOOKS KINDA LIKE US, TOO... THIS ONE'S REGISTERED UNDER "MOTOKO KUSANAGI."

MY COLLEAGUE, EH? I THOUGHT WE MIGHT RUN INTO THIS SORT OF SITUATION, BUT NOT QUITE SO SOON...

TIME FOR THAT OLD "MIGHT-BE-A-TRAP-BUT-LET'S-DIVE-IN-ANYWAY" ROUTINE AGAIN?

YOU GOT IT.

USE THE "MOTOKO KUSANAGI" ELEMENTS IN ME FOR AUTHENTICATION...WE'LL INFILTRATE THE "MOTOKO KUSANAGI" HERE.

SORT OF A "PARENT-CHILD" SHOWDOWN, HUH...?

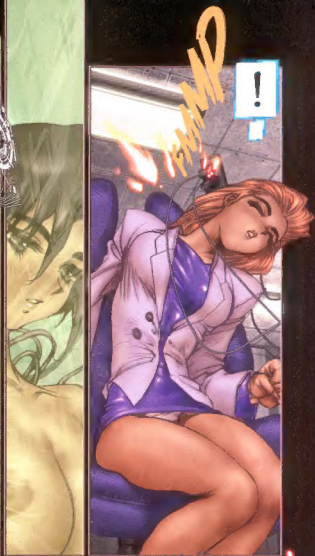
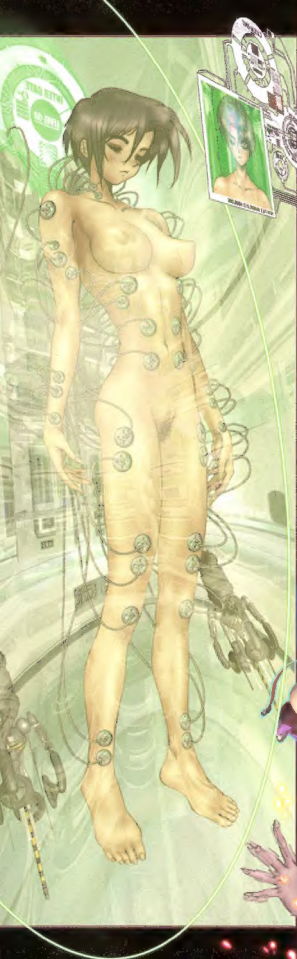
SO WHO'S THE PARENT...?

SET TIME DIFFERENTIALS ON ALL BARRIERS TO PREVENT FUNCTIONAL CONFLICTS.

START BY CONFIRMING PROSTHESIS CONTROL OPERATIONS DURING HIBERNATION...

ESTIMATING ONE MINUTE 'TIL THE ENEMY BREAKS THROUGH THE MISTRESS'S ARMED SYSTEM MAZE.





WE'VE GOT  
A CONTROL  
ABNORMALITY  
IN HER  
PROSTHETIC  
BODY! SHE  
APPEARS TO  
BE USING THE  
SAME TYPE  
OF TIME  
DIFFERENTIAL  
GATES!

AND THE MIRROR-  
SHIELD...?

IT'S  
FROZEN.

ENEMY'S  
EVOLVING  
ANTIBODIES ARE  
INFILTRATING  
LEVEL 3!  
BARRIERS ARE  
HAVING ZERO  
EFFECT!

"E" SET  
OF VIRUS  
ARRAYS HAS  
PENETRATED  
ENEMY'S  
LEVEL 3  
BARRIERS!

LEFT-ARM  
CONTROL  
SECTOR  
HAS BEEN  
BREACHED!

AMPUTATE  
LEFT ARM!


NOT  
ENOUGH  
TIME!!

SET POWER  
OUTPUT  
RATIO ON  
MINIMUM  
VALUE! LOCK  
DEFENSE  
LEVEL AT  
MAX!

LEFT-ARM  
OUTPUT  
DIALED TO  
MINIMUM...

NO DAMAGE  
TO LIVE-BODY  
MAINTENANCE  
BRIDGE!





WE'VE TAKEN  
OVER 60% OF THE  
ENEMY MOTOKO  
KUSANAGI'S BODY  
CONTROLS, BUT  
THE BRIDGE TO HER  
PHYSICAL BODY  
SEEMS BLOCKED...

YOU  
THINK THE  
VIRTUAL  
BODY IN  
E-BRAIN  
SPACE IS  
HER  
PRIMARY  
BODY?

COULD  
CONTROL OF THE  
PHYSICAL BODY  
BE LEFT UP TO  
DECATONCALE?

IT DOES  
APPEAR  
THAT  
WAY...



REBUILD  
FULL  
SPECTRUM  
OF VIRUS  
ARRAYS  
FOR THE  
GIMNI 35!

RESTORE ALL BODY-  
CONTROL FUNCTIONS  
TO THE BRAIN! THERE'S  
GOT TO BE AN  
EMERGENCY SETTING...  
LOOK FOR SOME  
OPENING TO EXPLOIT!  
TARGET THE RIGHT ARM!

MISTRESS...?  
CONAN'S GONE  
SILENT FROM  
CORE  
OVERHEATING  
HE'LL NEED  
THREE  
MINUTES TO  
RECOVER...

UN ON  
S THE  
TOY BOMB  
BACK

GET RID  
OF IT

THE HUBBLE  
MIRROR WILL  
BE WITHIN  
RANGE TO  
ATTACK  
ENEMY  
FACILITY IN  
SEVEN  
MINUTES



INJECT VIRUS  
ARRAYS INTO  
ENEMY  
MAINTENANCE  
CEBOTS AND  
STAND BY!

MISTRESS! ENEMY  
HAS STARTED  
INFILTRATING THE  
LEFT LEG MAZE!  
00:01:12 ESTIMATED  
UNTIL  
BREAKTHROUGH  
OCCURS!





ENEMY'S RIGHT ARM  
HAS BEEN  
INFILTRATED!

WE ARE  
EXPERIENCING  
FUSION WITH  
THE ENEMY IN  
EVERY PART  
OF BODY  
CONTROL!

CHUI'S  
GONE  
SILENT  
FROM OVER-  
HEATING!

SO--IT'S  
ALREADY  
BEGUN...

PHYSICALLY  
DESTROY  
THE BRIDGE!



ENEMY HAS  
CHANGED  
LEFT-ARM  
OUTPUT  
SETTING  
TO--

SWITCH  
TARGET  
TO MAIN  
INTERFACE  
JACK!

!



MAIN LINK  
BETWEEN ENEMY  
BODY AND  
DECATONCALE  
HAS BEEN  
DISENGAGED!

RELEASE  
MAINTENANCE  
ROBOT  
VIRUSES!

AND  
SO...?

THE FEWER,  
TRAPS THE  
BETTER.

ENEMY  
RESPONSE  
HAS  
DROPPED  
72%!

VIRUSES  
APPEAR  
TO BE  
TAKING  
EFFECT!

ENEMY MAZE-  
DIFFUSION RATE  
EFFECTIVENESS  
HAS CLIMBED  
TO 86%!

WHAT  
ABOUT THE  
FUSION  
PROCESS?

STILL  
ONGOING...  
NOW AT  
22%!

I'M GOING TO  
USE MY MOTOKO  
KUSANAGI  
ATTRIBUTES AND  
GO UP TO LEVEL 6  
PRIORITY SETTINGS  
BEFORE FUSING!

I'M OVER-  
HEATING..

ROUTE  
ARRAYS ARE  
LOSING SYNC!  
THIRTY-FOUR  
SATELLITES  
ARE NOW  
SUPPRESSED...

NOW  
CONTROLLING  
VIRAL  
RESPONSE  
ON FOUR ARMED  
SUITS!

LEVEL 6  
SHOULDER  
MAIN BARRIERS  
ARE ALREADY  
FUSING... FUSION  
PROCESS IS NOW  
42% COMPLETE!

MA'AM... AT  
THIS RATE,  
IT'LL SOON BE  
DIFFICULT TO  
MAINTAIN  
INTEGRITY OF  
PERSONAL  
IDENTITY...

SHARED MOTOKO  
ELEMENTS NOW  
FROZEN! MOVING  
FROM TESTING  
FUSED PORTIONS  
TO CONTACTING  
ENEMY!

LOKI AND  
SHIVA  
HAVE GONE  
SILENT  
FROM CPU  
OVER-  
HEATING!

I'M GOING  
TO BREAK  
THIS OFF IF  
THE LEVEL 6  
MAIN  
BARRIER  
FUSION RATE  
EXCEEDS  
88%!

KEEP  
YOUR EYE  
ON THOSE  
ARMORED  
SUITS  
VIRUSES!



Actually, when you go through an e-brain's deep-level ghostline, people wouldn't be this visually identifiable (especially with their clothes on, but maybe "real" ghosts could wear clothes if they were encrypted or burned with them on?). I just tried to show that Motoko senses things this way. And of course I was worried that maybe I was drawing just a little too much exposed flesh here.

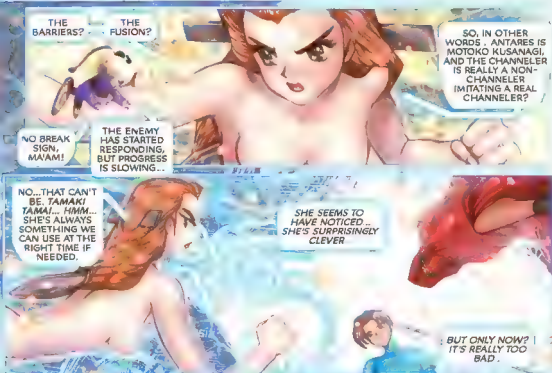




ANTARES...?!

SHE IS  
HERE .

I DID  
NOT  
INVITE  
HER. .



THE  
BARRIERS?

THE  
FUSION?

SO, IN OTHER  
WORDS . ANTARES IS  
MOTOKO KUSANAGI,  
AND THE CHANNELER  
IS REALLY A NON-  
CHANNELER  
IMITATING A REAL  
CHANNELER?

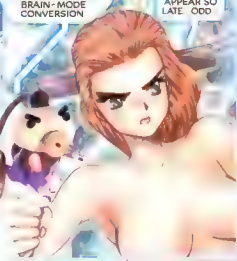
NO BREAK  
SIGN,  
MA'AM!

THE ENEMY  
HAS STARTED  
RESPONDING,  
BUT PROGRESS  
IS SLOWING...

NO...THAT CAN'T  
BE. TAMAKI  
TAMA!... HMM...  
SHE'S ALWAYS  
SOMETHING WE  
CAN USE AT THE  
RIGHT TIME IF  
NEEDED.

SHE SEEMS TO  
HAVE NOTICED...  
SHE'S SURPRISINGLY  
CLEVER

BUT ONLY NOW? |  
IT'S REALLY TOO  
BAD .



THE ENEMY BEARS A CLOSE RESEMBLANCE TO A MULTIGATE-TYPE NEURO AZ... APPEARS TO BE A BICAMERAL BRAIN-MODE CONVERSION

FIRST TYPE I'VE SEEN THAT MANIFESTS AS TWO PEOPLE.

BUT TO APPEAR SO LATE ODD



I AM ANTARES.

SHE IS SPICA



WE CALL YOU "MOTOKO II."

IN OTHER WORDS, SORT OF AN ELEVENTH-LEVEL ISOTOPE...

...THE TYPE THAT IGNORES WHATEVER CANNOT BE SCIENTIFICALLY VERIFIED, MM?



MOVE TAMAKI TO THE JAPAN CHANNELING AGENCY'S ANTI-ETHUG SAFE FACILITY!

ACCORDING TO THE RECORDS, AT LEAST, SHE'S ALREADY THERE...

WELL, INFILTRATE AN EMPLOYEE AND DOUBLE-CHECK!

...were to indicate them. "Ordo"-style, using Japanese characters, I'd write "Antares" as "Darkness-Hanging-Child" and "Spica" as "Original element Light."

USE MOTOKO KUSANAGI ELEMENTS TO FIND AN OPENING IN THE CHANNELING AGENCY AND TAKE OVER TAKAKI AT LEVEL 3!

YES M!

NOW CREATING STABAT MATER-RELATED DELTA-GRADE NEUROMAP!

AH, HASTE CAN LEAD TO SO MANY PROBLEMS...!

WE HAVE FUNCTIONAL CONFLICTS OCCURRING IN EIGHTY-FOUR PLACES ON THE TAMAKI TAMAKI ROUTE! INFILTRATION HAS FAILED! TRYING TO COME UP WITH A WORK-AROUND...

IF ANY PROBLEMS OCCUR IN THE ENEMY'S TAMAKI ROUTE, TOO, JUST PLANT A MONITOR BUOY THERE.

STABAT MATER COMES FIRST!

WAIT A SEC...WHEN I WAS AT NEST 20, TANAKI ASKED A QUESTION...

...ABOUT MY INVOLVEMENT WITH STABAT MATER...  
!!

COLLECT DELTA-GRADE INFORMATION ON STABAT MATER!

FOR HER THINGS START TO BECOME INTERESTING FROM NOW ON.

HMM...SO THE ENTERTAINMENT FACILITIES ARE NOTHING MORE THAN A FRONT FOR MATERIALS PROCUREMENT?

IF IT'S AN ENTERTAINMENT GROUP WITH A RELIGIOUS ORIENTATION, I GUESS IT'S EASIER FOR THEM TO GET WHAT THEY WANT LEGALLY THAT WAY.

MILLENNIUM IS BEING OBSERVED.

I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I? LEAVE ANY HARDWARE LYING AROUND IN THE UNIVERSE, AND IT'LL BE CAPTURED IN A YEAR...EVEN IF IT'S KEPT UPDATED!

LEVEL 30  
INTRA CYCLE

GEE, MILLENNIUM'S HUMAN BRAIN ARRAY IS EVEN CLOSER TO WHAT'S NEEDED...MAYBE THAT'S WHY THEY WERE ATTACKED...?

MAYBE THE PIG ARRAYS ARE NEWER AND CLOSER TO WHAT'S NEEDED...MAYBE THAT'S WHY THEY WERE ATTACKED...?

DON'T TAKE TWENTY-SEVEN OTHERS TELL YOU AT FACE

THEN...WAS MILLENNIUM SUPPRESSED BECAUSE WE ARE THE ELEVENTH PIECE IN THE GAME, NEW, AND CLOSE TO THE TARGET?





GIVE ME THE  
PIG-ARRAY  
NEUROMAP!

YES'M!

HMM...THIS ISN'T  
ONE OF THOSE  
MILLENNIUM-STYLE  
CENTRALIZED-  
COMMAND TYPES  
SEARCH FOR THE  
OVERALL CONTROL  
SYSTEM!

EVERY UNIT HAS  
EXACTLY THE  
SAME PARALLEL  
SETTINGS, MA'AM

BUT SURELY  
THESE CAN'T  
BE RANDOM  
LINKS...

WHEN I ASKED EARLIER  
"WHY THE PIGS?"... YOU  
SAID SOMETHING  
ABOUT IT BEING MAYBE  
"BECAUSE THEY'RE  
FUN," RIGHT?

LESSEE...  
RIGHT. THAT  
WAS WHAT WE  
SAID ON MARCH  
6, 2035, AT  
12 42:32 ~35

THE  
ARMED-  
ARRAY LINK  
HAS BEEN  
RESTORED!

GOOD!

WHAT  
DID YOU  
MEAN BY  
THAT?

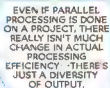
INTELLIGENT AIs LIKE  
US ARE AN UNUSUAL  
EXISTENCE IN THE  
KNOWN UNIVERSE.  
EVEN ALLOWING FOR  
ERRORS IN LANGUAGE,  
AND OS TERMINALS

THE ACTUAL NUMBER  
OF HARDWARE  
TERMINALS AND THE  
DISTANCES BETWEEN  
THEM ARE ONLY  
VISUAL PHENOMENA.

HMM  
KEEP  
GOING...



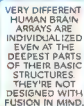
EVEN IF HUMAN  
BRAINS ARE  
LINKED, THEY  
NORMALLY  
CONTINUE TO BE  
INDEPENDENT  
ENTITIES AND  
NEVER FUSE.



EVEN IF PARALLEL  
PROCESSING IS DONE  
ON A PROJECT, THERE  
REALLY ISN'T MUCH  
CHANGE IN ACTUAL  
PROCESSING  
EFFICIENCY. THERE'S  
JUST A DIVERSITY  
OF OUTPUT.



IS THAT ANY  
DIFFERENT  
FROM THE  
KIND OF  
INDIVIDUALITY  
YOU GUYS  
HAVE?



VERY DIFFERENT  
HUMAN BRAIN  
ARRAYS ARE  
INDIVIDUALIZED  
EVEN AT THE  
DEEPEST PARTS  
OF THEIR BASIC  
STRUCTURES.  
THEY'RE NOT  
DESIGNED WITH  
FUSION IN MIND.



OF COURSE, THEY'RE  
TAILORED TO  
INDIVIDUAL USERS'  
PREFERENCES, BUT  
"WE" ARE ACTUALLY  
ONLY PART OF A  
LARGER GIANT  
SYSTEM CALLED "I."



SO WHAT'S  
THE MAIN  
ADVANTAGE  
OF A SYSTEM  
LIKE THAT?



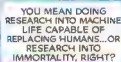
I  
DUNNO.



WANT TO USE AI TO  
CREATE A DIVERSE-  
FUNCTION SYSTEM  
THAT WON'T FUSE?



THEN HOW  
ABOUT DOING  
RESEARCH ON  
COPYING THE  
HUMAN BRAIN  
INTO A NEURO  
AI?



YOU MEAN DOING  
RESEARCH INTO MACHINE  
LIFE CAPABLE OF  
REPLACING HUMANS...OR  
RESEARCH INTO  
IMMORTALITY, RIGHT?

EVER UP-GHOSTLINE  
CAUTION!



IT'S ALL  
THE  
SAME



IF THE  
LATTER, YOU  
WOULDN'T  
INTERFERE  
WOULD YOU?



HOLD ON... YOU  
THINK MOTOKO  
KUSANAGI WOULD  
REALLY DO THAT  
SORT OF  
EXPERIMENT?

TRUE  
DIVERSITY'S  
NOT  
NECESSARY  
WITH AI

AND IF HUMANS  
EVER BECAME  
IMMORTAL,  
THEY'D SELF-  
DESTRUCT IN  
UNDER 200  
YEARS

WHAT'S  
THIS...?

LOOKS  
LIKE THE  
FOUNDATIONS  
ARE BEING  
LAID FOR A  
MASSIVE  
FUSION...  
MAYBE...?

YOU THINK  
IT'S A BRAIN  
EXPANSION?

FUSION USUALLY  
TAKES PLACE IN A  
SINGLE HUMAN  
BRAIN, SO SOME  
ELEMENTS ARE  
ALWAYS LOST.  
THAT'S JUST PART  
OF THE METABOLIC  
PROCESS

MISTRESS'  
MAIN-  
BARRIER  
FUSION HAS  
REACHED  
50%

BY LINKING E-BRAIN  
AIs, IF THE BIOLOGICAL  
RESTRICTIONS CAN BE  
OVERCOME, YOU COULD  
HAVE MULTIPLE--  
THEORETICALLY EVEN  
INFINITE--PERSONALITIES  
ENCAPSULATED IN ONE



ENTITIES WITH  
E-BRAINS ALL  
BECOME A  
SUBSPECIES OF  
MOTOKO  
KUSANAGI OR  
BECOME ISOTOPE  
FRACTIONS...

THOSE WITHOUT  
E-BRAINS ARE  
UNCONSCIOUS OF  
THE FACT THAT IN ALL  
ASPECTS THEY ARE  
OF INCREASINGLY  
LOWER PRIORITY...

AN INVISIBLE  
SYSTEM OF  
CONTROL?

THAT'S NOT ONLY  
TROUBLESOME  
AND DANGEROUS,  
BUT BORING AS  
WELL. IT'S BETTER  
TO THINK OF IT  
AS BUILDING A  
UNIFIED  
FOUNDATION...

SO IT'S THE  
PROCESS  
LEADING  
UP TO  
DEATH ?

IT'S THE PROCESS  
OF LIFE.  
WITHOUT IT, IT  
MEANS YOU'RE  
ALREADY DEAD.

SOMEONE  
OUGHT TO PAY  
SOMETHING FOR  
HAVING USED  
OUR COMPANY'S  
PIGS FOR THEIR  
OWN BENEFIT...

"SOMEONE  
OUGHT TO PAY  
SOMETHING FOR  
HAVING USED  
OUR COMPANY'S  
PIGS FOR THEIR  
OWN BENEFIT"

USING ONLY A  
PORTION FOR A  
GOOD CAUSE  
DIDN'T RESULT  
IN ANY GREAT  
LOSSES. DON'T  
YOU THINK  
THERE'S AN  
EVEN GREATER  
RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR THE  
ATTACKS AND  
THE BOMBING?





NO. 20  
(MILLENNIUM),  
HAS BEEN TAKEN  
OVER BY NO. 11  
(ARAMAKI), SO  
THE BRAIN  
EXPANSION PLANS  
ARE CALLED OFF

THAT'S A NORMAL  
DECISION WHEN  
FUSION ACTUALLY  
TAKES PLACE, BUT  
UNFORTUNATELY  
SHE SEEMS TO HAVE  
NO INTENTION OF  
FUSING

STRANGE

**WARNING!**  
DO NOT ENTER  
THIS AREA  
UNLESS YOU  
ARE A  
MEMBER OF  
THE  
FUSION  
TEAM

SOMETHING'S REALLY  
WEIRD WITH THE  
LANGUAGE FIELD  
HERE. GIVE ME A  
PROGRESS REPORT  
ON THE MAIN-  
BARRIER FUSION!

LEX HAS  
BEEN  
FROZEN! MAIN  
BARRIER  
FUSION  
91%!

WE HAVE AN  
ABNORMALITY  
IN THE  
RIGHT-SIDE  
HEARING!

RIGHT-SIDE  
HEARING?

WHAT  
THE--?!



WE'VE LOST  
RESPONSE  
FROM MAIN  
BARRIERS!  
OPERATION  
IS NORMAL!

TIME-DIFFERENTIAL  
GATES HAVE STOPPED  
FUNCTIONING! MADE  
ATTEMPT TO WIPE AND  
REBUILD, BUT THERE'S  
NO RESPONSE!

COMBAT  
MODE  
SHIFTING  
TO STANDBY  
DUE TO  
LOSS OF  
TARGETS...

UM  
MISTRESS?

WE'RE NOT  
GETTING ANY  
COMMANDS...  
WHAT  
SHOULD  
WE DO?

LET'S DO A  
STRUCTURAL  
ANALYSIS AS  
SOON AS THE  
HARDWARE  
COOLS TO  
RECOMMENDED  
OPERATING  
TEMPERATURE!

OH,  
BOY!  
LET'S!

TO BE CONTINUED...

## INTERFACE

Send snail comments to 500 Northwest 14th Avenue, 3rd floor

Send snail mail comments to

**interface**

**c/o Dark Horse Comics**

**10956 SE Main St.**

**Milwaukie OR 97222**

The letters, snail, and e-mail comments from readers of *Shirow* are in, and the verdict is unanimous: this *Shirow* guy is pretty good! *Shirow* has been our most successful title so far in 2003, which, needless to say, makes everyone at Dark Horse as happy as a three-legged man at a three-legged picnic! The snail and e-mail comments, on that aside, let's get to more of your mail! *Shirow* is a great comic. I like the way you draw and the way you tell a story. I'm smarter than I am!

— Chris Warner

Dear Excellent Entertainer Shirow,

I've enjoyed reading your comics for quite some time and avidly read the little flavor notes. I have one concern about this new *Ghost in the Shell* storyline, the "body-stamping" element that is the prevalent factor of the action. While the imbueing of a character's spirit into new puppets layers your "simulation" mystary and flows from the first *GITS*, it creates a sense of lag between the main character and the action. The main character's control of puppets displaces the action from her and places her in the position of puppet-master rather than as actor. This is the one thing that somewhat bothers me as my "link" to the main character is disoriented or blurred each time she inhabits a new form (not shape, but entity), and this weakens the idea (shape) of the character. The phrase "body-stamping" is a reference to the character Jericho from *Teen Titans*, who had the neat power of possessing others on a physical level; while this is an awesome power, it didn't make for an interesting character. Maybe if the possessed had some distinguishing mark, like a prevalent facial tattoo or super-distinct language.

Moe, in issue #6 when the four cyborgs face off against Motoko/Chrome, I immediately thought the big cyborg on the end was Sokuin, the funny merc from *Appleseed*. Though unlikely, that would be the hunk!

Stevendildy

I would think the disorientation you mention is an intentional narrative device. Much of the technology we use every day without giving it a thought would be pretty disorienting if exposed to a population even twenty years ago, and I think Mas-Machine Interface does an incredible job of showing how technology is changing society, changing culture, changing us. When you consider how much real-time interpersonal communication today is carried out at a distance, over networks, anywhere and everywhere, how relationships are formed and flourish with little or no physical contact and how much this new dynamic has irrevocably altered our lives — for good or ill — the idea of expanding that reach physically through non-human surrogates doesn't seem like such an extreme stretch, and the matter-of-fact approach we have to our current incredible reach through technology will likely be just as nothing-special when we're piloting our cyborg surrogates in the future. With luck, artists like Mr. Shirow will keep us on our toes and help us to never take these things for granted. And hopefully, my cyborg surrogates will have better luck with the ladies than I do!

I'm probably one of your younger readers (12) but still a hardcore fan of most things manga/mangwa/anime. I have to say that upon reading the first issue I was shocked. I had never seen such drawing. Shirow is truly the master of CGI (as in Computer Generated Images, not Common Gateway Interface). Being younger I quickly got confused in the plot but I've kept reading because, even if I miss a lot of the plot, the action and dialogue are wowzers. An entire world has been masterfully sculpted by Shirow.

After reading issue 6 I have to bring up the topic of flipping images. I don't want to ruin a manga or make it one of the best. For example, in *Battle Angel Alita* (my favorite manga series) Volume 2, Yugo has a hand cut off and it is labeled as his left (I think), but because it was flipped it looked like his right, which messed things up. But, the sound effects can come to be important so they often must be flipped for the plot to make sense. I also have to comment on cutting. Since I'm twelve, my parents wouldn't let me get something with strong sex scenes, so while it is good for the older hardcore, I (as a younger hardcore) would like a bit taken out rather than missing the whole thing.

Also, gaming makes my mind focus. too. Can you say something fun about it as I can see my fantasy for maximum focusing effect? I don't compare on the computer manga and I have you to GITS 2 (if there is one)

Thesmethyone

Hi Thesmethyone, please check out my new manga page at [www.comicscan.com](http://www.comicscan.com)

I dunno, could you send me a picture of your 3D printed characters? The word I did really check out your site - which is very good. By the way - but I have a question. PLEASE ARE THE MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE REYNOLDS? [www.comicscan.com](http://www.comicscan.com)

Now for the propagandizing: Anonymous Thesmethyone, I assume I find who have you talk thinking when you named your son Thesmethyone? Was was some kind of Summer of Love thing? Second, it has been proven in a number of really famous studies that spending an inordinate amount of time reading comics and playing Gameboy has a direct relationship to increasing intelligence, physical strength, and the ability to buy and sell Real Estate with little or no money down. And the honeys will be lining up! Assuming that some doesn't drop the gate on you.

First off, I'd like to say that I'm perfectly happy to see GITS2 panel-flipped. I wouldn't mind seeing it the other way either. As a left-hander, I've got to admit that reading right to left makes more sense to me, but I'm a minority and I accept that.

I do, however, want to point you that your response to Mr. Floyd, who was objecting to "Westernization" of manga, did contain a factual error: While it may be true that some of the Japanese collected editions of GITS1 did not contain the sex scenes, some must have. I own the Young Magazine Kaizokuban edition, published by Kudansha, and it contains the pages in question.

Also, I have a rather serious question on this topic: given that in both GITS1 and GITS2 the sex scenes also included quite a bit of background information (footnotes, etc.), are there any plans at Dark Horse to make the pages, or at least a translation of the text, available in any form? I realize that publishing two collected editions would be quite expensive, but perhaps there is something that could be done? Would your copyright agreement with Mr. Shirow allow you to publish a text-only translation of those pages on your website, or something similar?

Brad Jackson

When I was talking about the elimination of sex scenes, I was specifically talking about Man-Machine Interface: the current Japanese edition (Shirow's official "director's cut," if you will) does not contain the sex scenes everyone's talking about, and no mass-market edition ever has. As for the original Ghost in the Shell, Mr. Shirow decided to alter some nude scenes for the Western market. Again, we would have published the book any way Mr. Shirow saw fit, but he was aware of distribution policies in the other countries, and he preferred to make what were ultimately very minor revisions to make sure the books were available to all of his audience. And it should be pointed out that the "hot" pages in Ghost in the Shell were substantially tamer than the explicit scene Mr. Shirow ultimately excised from Man-Machine Interface. While cultural attitudes have loosened up a bit here in North America since Ghost in the Shell was released, the kind of material Mr. Shirow deleted from MMI would be extremely problematic for distribution. Ultimately, Mr. Shirow felt that a tiny fraction of MMI's content was not worth severely curtailing the distribution of his work. As for whether the pre-edited material will ever be widely available here, I can't say. Mr. Shirow determines how his work is presented, and we're here to make the trains run on time. But, the controversial pages from MMI were re-done by Mr. Shirow, not removed, so no story information is missing.



*And one more thing – and it's a pertinent bit of proof of mine, so please humor Grandpa Chris – regarding the Westernizing debate: the proper term for a reversed image is "flopped," not "flipped." You flip a burger, you flip out when your wife rearranges the furniture without telling you – wait, that's me who flips out – but you flop artwork. Now turn that racket down, and stop makin' apples outta my yore!*

Dear Masamune Shirov:

As I read *Man-Machine Interface* #8, I am again struck in the beauty of Masamune Shirov's artwork. He is a definite dazzler with his display of perplexing designs of beauty in a futuristic world. I also loved the colors that are displayed on various pages of this incredible story. I also got a kick out of the footnotes displayed on the outer rims of each page, such as the note that describes how a brain humans wake-up before cyborgs because of poor posters, hunger, etc. My grandfather used to write letters that had scribbling on the sides, but nevertheless it was a fun read, as I found his humor easy, which way to read it. As always I enjoyed the action. I actually turned off *A Man Apart* for being boring to read; *MMI*, because there is better action in *Ghost in the Shell* than in *Vin Diesel's* movie. I love the definitions and explanations; this is an incredible source for readers to fall back on as they compare with the story. The magazine *Scientific American* mentions that if true Artificial Intelligence were to be incorporated into the Internet, we could create our own god, because it would absorb all knowledge that is now on the Internet. Whether this created god would become benevolent or evil would be anyone's guess. In the futuristic world of *Ghost in the Shell*, AI is a reality and anything can possibly happen. The bee with the transmitter reminded me of an article in *Eye Spy* magazine. Scientists are now working on nano-mites and nano-gaets that could fly and transmit images and audio to the receiver. The perfect spy gadget. In *Ghost in the Shell* the future is here, from the visionary eyes of Masamune Shirov!

Paul Dale Roberts, Production Officer  
Jazma Universe Online!

*And everybody should check out Jazma Universe Online, an excellent comics-related website with reviews, art, news, carp, anchovies, and what-have-you, but an unconscionable lack of tributes to me. Hopefully, Vin Diesel can get some love over there.*

Hiwot: Masamune Shirov and *Interface*

I just wanted to write to you on behalf of *Ghost in the Shell 2: Man-Machine Interface*. This is the best work I've ever seen!! *Ghost in the Shell* was breathtaking and excellent, but this work of art is incredible!! The integration of perfect art along with computer technology is beyond words. I loved it so much I had to write to everyone who helped make this possible. I also ran out right after reading the first *GITS2* and bought all three *Man-Machine Interface* figures. Thank you so much for making such a breathtaking work of art with such an incredible storyline. It's so perfect that I plan to have Motoko Kusanagi in her white outfit tattooed along my right calf. Again I thank you all so much.

Michael McKee Jr.

*Glad you're enjoying the work so much, and after mentioning your skin art plans to Ms. Kusanagi, she's decided to get a tattoo of your right calf! Ha ha, I'm making that up! She's a fictional character – although that hasn't stopped me from pining after her. I'm hoping I still have a shot. BTW, I'm told by our one of our resident Dark Horse tattoo technicians that white tats glow under black light. How cool is that? Dancing neon skeleton, here I come!*

# 攻殻機動隊

## INTERCHANGE

Readers of *Man-Machine Interface* are well aware by now of Masamune Shirow's awesome mastery of digital modeling and rendering. But even the best have to work like slaves to get everything right, and digital technology allows — or tempts — the artist to try a variety of image treatments until getting just the right one. On the following pages, we've included some variant images Mr. Shirow created for *MMI*. This page features an analysis of altered images from issue #2.



Here are two different treatments of a panel from issue #1, page 37 (see image at right). Note how Shirow has experimented wildly with the floating computer graphics, and notice how the sitting figure in the left foreground was deleted from the finished image and the background entirely radically altered.



Two costume-design variations for Motoko as she appeared on the cover of issue #2.





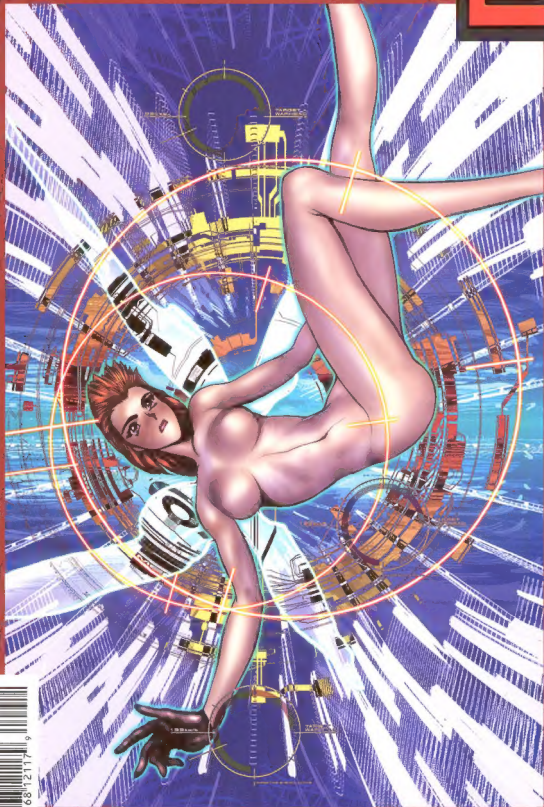


# GHOST IN THE SHELL

## MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE

# 2

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MASAMUNE SHIROW

# TFT

*The Furry Triangles*



We Love Beavers.